

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for handling construction project information related to the construction of a building, the construction project information including content information, work schedule information, work progress information and change order information, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 receiving content information related to the design of a building;
receiving work schedule information that indicates a projected schedule as to when various construction stages of the building are to be completed;
receiving work progress information that indicates the actual progress of the building;
receiving change order information directed to changes in the design of the building;
10 and
providing the construction project information to an authorized party, when requested.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the construction project information is only available to a requesting party that furnishes an appropriate one of an identification (ID) number, a password, a voiceprint and a cryptogram.

3. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:
revising the work schedule information when the change order information impacts the projected schedule.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the construction project information further includes profiles of a general contractor, a site superintendent and all subcontractors furnishing at least one of labor and material.

5. The method of claim 4, further including the step of:
notifying at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent when work progress information is not received for a predetermined time.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the work progress information includes at least one current image of the construction site and the building which details changes in at least one of the building and construction site that have occurred from at least one previous image.

7. The method of claim 6, further including the step of:
authorizing payment to the subcontractor that has fulfilled its obligation when the at least one current image validates that the subcontractor has furnished at least one of the contracted labor and contracted material.

8. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:
verifying the authorized party received the requested construction project information.

9. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:

requesting updated construction project information from at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent when required construction project information has not been received within a predetermined time period.

10. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:

receiving a building site inspection request from a building purchaser;

providing the building site inspection request to at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent; and

coordinating a mutually acceptable time and date between the building purchaser and at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent.

11. The method of claim 1, further including the step of:

providing a warning to at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent when a building purchaser reports a building associated problem.

12. The method of claim 11, further including the step of:

scheduling correction of the reported building associated problem with an appropriate subcontractor.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the construction project information further includes location information for determining the location of at least one of the general contractor, the site superintendent and the subcontractors furnishing at least one of labor and material.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the location information is provided by a portable telephone in the possession of at least one of the general contractor, the site superintendent and the subcontractors.

15. A control and inquiry system for handling construction project information related to the construction of a building, the construction project information including content information, work schedule information, work progress information and change order information, the system comprising:

a control and inquiry computer system coupled to a computer network and storing construction project information;

a home builder computer system coupled to the computer network;

a client computer system coupled to the computer network; and

control and inquiry code executing on the control and inquiry computer system and

causing the control and inquiry computer system to perform the steps of:

receiving content information related to the design of a building from the home builder computer system;

receiving work schedule information that indicates a projected schedule as to when various construction stages of the building are to be completed from the home builder

15 computer system;

receiving work progress information that indicates the actual progress of the building;

receiving change order information directed to changes in the design of the building; and

20 providing the construction project information to an authorized party, when requested.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the construction project information is only available to a requesting party that furnishes an appropriate one of an identification (ID) number, a password, a voiceprint and a cryptogram.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein the control and inquiry code causes the control and inquiry computer system to perform the additional step of:

revising the work schedule information when the change order information impacts the projected schedule.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the construction project information further includes profiles of a general contractor, a site superintendent and all subcontractors furnishing at least one of labor and material.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the control and inquiry code causes the control and inquiry computer system to perform the additional step of:

notifying at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent when work progress information is not received for a predetermined time.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein the work progress information includes at least one current image of the construction site and the building which details changes in at least one of the building and construction site that have occurred from at least one previous image.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the control and inquiry code causes the control and inquiry computer system to perform the additional step of:

authorizing payment to the subcontractor that has fulfilled its obligation when the at least one current image validates that the subcontractor has furnished at least one of the contracted labor and contracted material.

22. The system of claim 15, wherein the control and inquiry code causes the control and inquiry computer system to perform the additional step of:

verifying the authorized party received the requested construction project information.

23. The system of claim 15, wherein the control and inquiry code causes the control and inquiry computer system to perform the additional step of:

requesting updated construction project information from at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent when required construction project information has not been received within a predetermined time period.

24. The system of claim 15, wherein the control and inquiry code causes the control and inquiry computer system to perform the additional steps of:

receiving a building site inspection request from a building purchaser;

providing the building site inspection request to at least one of the general contractor

5 and the site superintendent; and

coordinating a mutually acceptable time and date between the building purchaser and at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent.

25. The system of claim 15, wherein the control and inquiry code causes the control and inquiry computer system to perform the additional step of:

providing a warning to at least one of the general contractor and the site superintendent when a building purchaser reports a building associated problem.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the control and inquiry code causes the control and inquiry computer system to perform the additional step of:

scheduling correction of the reported building associated problem with an appropriate subcontractor.

27. The system of claim 15, wherein the construction project information further includes location information for determining the location of at least one of the general contractor, the site superintendent and the subcontractors furnishing at least one of labor and material.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the location information is provided by a portable telephone in the possession of at least one of the general contractor, the site superintendent and the subcontractors.

29. A control and inquiry system for handling construction project information related to the construction of a building, the construction project information including content information, work schedule information, work progress information and change order information, the system comprising:

5 a control and inquiry computer system coupled to a computer network and storing construction project information;

a home builder computer system coupled to the computer network;

a client computer system coupled to the computer network; and

10 control and inquiry code executing on the control and inquiry computer system and causing the computer system to perform the steps of:

receiving content information related to the design of a building from the home builder computer system;

15 receiving work schedule information that indicates a projected schedule as to when various construction stages of the building are to be completed from the home builder computer system;

receiving work progress information that indicates the actual progress of the building;

receiving change order information directed to changes in the design of the building; and

20 providing the construction project information to an authorized party, when requested, wherein the authorized party includes the home builder computer system and the client computer system.